

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 19-24 are allowed.

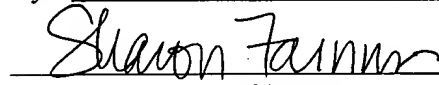
The Office Action raised an issue with regards to the foreign patent publication JP10-126753 on the grounds that it did not have an English translation. It should be appreciated, however, that the European Patent Application EP0827340 that is of record, was an application from the same Japanese priority Application 230026/96. Accordingly, an English translation of the content of this Japanese document is of record because of the EPO application.

Applicant has cancelled Claims 14 to 18 without prejudice or an admission of the validity of an obviousness rejection over three separate references in order to accelerate the prosecution of this case.

Accordingly, it is believed the case is now in condition for allowance and an early notification of the same is requested.

If there are any questions with regards to this response, the undersigned attorney can be contacted at the listed phone number.

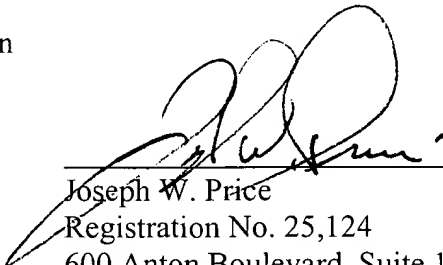
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 1, 2005.

By: Sharon Farnus

Signature

Dated: September 1, 2005

Very truly yours,

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